

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 22775 051827Z POSS DUPE
ACTION IO-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 22775

NESCO

LIMDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: UNESCO, AORG, APER
SUBJECT: UNESCO: USINTEREST IN HIGH LEVEL SECRE-
TARIAT POSITION

REF: (A) STATE 173065, (B) STATE 181845, (C) PARIS
18057

1. IN RECENT DISCUSSION, DDG FOBES SUGGESTED TO
ACTING PERMREP THAT USMIGHT CONSIDER FOLLOWING THREE
POSSIBILITIES FOR HIGH-LEVEL SECRETARIAT POSITION.

2. THE US MIGHT SUPPORT CREATION OF A NEW ADG LEVEL
POSITION, WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM SEPARATING
"COMMUNICATIONS" FROM "CULTURE,," AND COMBINING IT WITH
THE GENERAL INFORMATION PROGRAM(WHICH IS NOW UNDER THE
DIRECTORSHIP OF KNAPP (FR) WHO HEADS THE "BUREAU OF
STUDIES AND PROGRAMMING."). AS FOBES POINTED OUT,
THE US IS UNQUESTIONED LEADER IN FIELD OF INFORMATION
PROCESSING AND RETRIEVAL, AND MERGING THIS SPECIALITY
WITH GENERAL COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES, WHICH ARE
SEEN IN MUCH MORE OF AN ETHICAL AND POLITICAL CONTEXT,
WOULD HELPTO JUSTIFY NOMINATION OF AN AMERICAN TO THIS
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PAGE 02 PARIS 22775 051827Z POSS DUPE

POSITION.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THIS SEEMS AN ATTRACTIVE POSSIBILITY
TO US, AND FERMENTTION OVER THE QUESTION OF A RE-
ORGANIZATION OF , OR WITHIN, THE CULTURE AND COMMUNICA-
TIONS SECTOR, HAS OBVIOUSLY BEGUN, IT IS FAR FROM CER-
TAIN WHETHER THE DG WOULD APPROVE THE CHANGES WHICH

FOBES HAS SUGGESTED, OR HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO ACCOMPLISH ONCE AGREE TO IN PRINCIPLE. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS BELOW FOBES LEVEL THAT DG'S RATIONAL INPLACING COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTURE IN SAME SECTOR WAS TO UNDERSCORE INTERDEPENDENCE OF BOTH. THEY BELIEVE THAT DG MIGHT NOT BE WELL DISPOSED TO RETREAT FROM THIS POSITION BY SEPARATING CULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS ONCE AGAIN. BEST THEY KNOW OF HIS CURRENT THINKING (AND SEAH READILY ADMITS HE COULD BE MISTAKEN) IS THAT BOTH COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTURE WILL REMAIN TOGETHER, AND THAT DG IS CONTEMPLATING CREATION OF A DEPUTY ADG POSITION FOR COORDINATING THE WORK OF BOTH UNDER GENERAL DIRECTION OF PRESENT ADG. SEVERAL WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED A DEEP INTEREST IN HZAUB AN AMERICAN IN THIS POSITION. THIS COURSE, HOWEVER, WOULD CERTAINLY ISOLATE (AND ALIENATE) THE PRESENT ADG WHO IS FRIENDLY TO US.

4. UNTIL A DECISION IS TAKEN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, NONE BELIEVE THAT REPLACEMENTS FOR NAESSELUND (WHO LEFT ON AUGUST 1 AFTER BEING EXTENDED FOR 4 MONTHS), OR JULIAN BEHRSTOCK, THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF "FREE FLOW DIVISION" WHO RETIRED ON JANUARY 1, WILL BE SOUGHT. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT PERMDEL ERRORED IN REPORTING (REFTEL C) THAT KANDIL WOULD REPLACE BEHRSTOCK AS DIVISION CHIEF. IN FACT, KANDIL IS NOW IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 22775 051827Z POSS DUPE

PARIS, AND HAS TAKEN OVER DUTIES OF LLOYD SOMMERLAD (AUSTRALIA P-5) IN THE FREE FLOW DIVISION. SOMMERLAD HAS BEEN REASSIGNED AS REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR FOR ASIA AND IS HEADQUARTERED IN KUALA LUMPUR. HOHN WILLINGS (UK) IS ACTING AS CHIEF OF "FREE FLOW" UNTIL QUESTION OF A REORGANIZATION, AND SUBSEQUENTLY NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR, ARE STRAIGHTENED OUT. PIERRE NAVAUX, DIRECTOR OF DIV. OF DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS IN THE INTERIM, HAS INFORMALLY ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES OF BOTH HIS DIVISION AND OF FREE FLOW. UPSHOT OF ALL THIS IS THAT NO ONE REALLY KNOWS DG'S THINKING ON THIS MATTER, AND IN THE MEANTIME, BOTH "FREE FLOW" AND "COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM" DIVISIONS ARE DISORGANIZED, UNDERSTAFFED, AND YET ASKED TO BEAR ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BACKSTOPPING "WISE-MEN GROUP" (SEE SEPTTEL).

5. FOR A SECOND ALTERNATIVE, FOBES POINTED OUT THAT IT INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT CONTRACT OF HILDEBRAND (PERU), ADG FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES WILL EXPIRE IN JULY 1978 AND WILL NOT BE RENEWED. HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS ARE

HANDLED UNDER THIS SECTOR.

6. FINALLY, FOBES INDICATED THAT KADDOURA, ADG FOR SCIENCE, MAY BE JUGGLED FROM DIRECT RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES FIELD, AND A NEW POSITION CREATED TO ASSUME LINE AUTHORITY. AS WELL AS CONSIDERING THIS AS A POSSIBILITY FOR AN AMERICAN, FOBES URGED THAT THE US SHOULD MAKE UP ITS MIND ABOUT WHAT ROLE IT BELIEVES UNESCO SHOULD PLAY WITH REGARD TO SCIENCE IN THE UN

7. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE DIFFICULTIES FOR DEVELOPING A CLEAR PICTURE OF POSSIBILITIES OFFERED BY ANY OF THESE ALTERNATIVES, PERMDEL BELIEVES THAT A TOUSSAINT VISIT WITH THE DG WOULD BE PREMATURE AT THIS TIME. IN
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PAGE 04 PARIS 22775 051827Z POSS DUPE

ANY EVENT, AS POINTED OUT SEPTTEL, THE DG WILL NOW BE BACK IN PARIS UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST, AND GIVEN HIS SCHEDULE, PROBABLY WILL NOT HAVE CHANCE TO FOCUS ON THESE QUESTIONS ANYWAY UNTIL AT LEAST SEPTEMBER. WE BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR ALTERNATIVE AS LAID OUT BY FOBES IS BY FAR THE MOST ATTRACTIVE, BUT THIS QUESTION WILL OBVIOUSLY REQUIRE MORE SIMMERING BEFORE WE COULD COUNT ON A CREDIBLE RESPONSE FROM DG ON WHICH TO BASE AN INTERVENTION, OR TO STRUCTURE A BID.

8. FYI: FOBES ALSO INFORMED ACTING PERMREP THAT HE HAS NOW FORMALLY SUBMITTED TO DG HIS LETTER OF RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE DEC. 31 1977.
HARTMAN

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